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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,030	11/21/2001	Gopal B. Avinash	GEMS:0183 112017	2750
7590	11/30/2004		EXAMINER	KASSA, YOSEF
Patrick S. Yoder Fletcher, Yoder & Van Someren P.O. Box 692289 Houston, TX 77269-2289			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	H
DATE MAILED: 11/30/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/990,030	AVINASH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	YOSEF KASSA	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2001.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-94 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 1-28 and 71-94 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 29-70 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 29-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. That is, claim 29 is recites the limitations “the dominant” in line 9, and “the homogenization” in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 52-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. That is, claim 52 recites the limitation “the non-selected” in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 52 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Examiner did not understand the phase “different manners” recited in line 8. It is impossible to make or use the process without providing a clear definition/explanation of the phase.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-28 and 71-94 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The closest prior art of record failed to teach or suggest, reducing image noise by selectively processing one or more selected regions of the shrunken image and differentially processing one or more non-selected regions of the shrunken image such that a

processed image results, expanding the processed image by the given factor to produce an expanded image, blending one or more selected regions of the expanded image with one or more corresponding regions of the initial image to produce a blended image, and correcting a plurality of intensity values of the blended image by differentially processing two or more regions (claims 1-28); and identifying one or more structural features from the smoothed image data, orientation smoothing the structural features, homogenization smoothing non-structural regions, orientation sharpening the structural features, expanding the shrunken image to the same dimensions as the initial image to form an expanded image, blending of the initial image data into the expanded image data, and differentially correcting intensity values in two or more regions of the blended image using an image mask (claims 71-94).Therefore, in combination with all the other limitations claims 1-28 and 71-94 are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Other Prior Art Cited

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. (6,424,730) to Wang et al discloses medical image enhancement method for hardcopy prints.

US Patent No. (6,717,610) to Bos et al discloses wide angle image capture system for vehicle

US Patent No. (6,018,597) to Maltsev et al discloses method and apparatus for changing or mapping video...

US Patent No. (6,633,662) to Ravkin discloses identification of objects of objects of interest...

US Patent No. (5,860,931) to Chandler discloses ultrasound method and system for measuring perfusion.

US Patent No. (6,720,997) to Horie et al discloses image generating apparatus.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOSEF KASSA whose telephone number is (703) 306-5918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BHAVESH MEHTA can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for regular communication and (703) 872-9306 for after Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-5631. The group receptionist number for TC 2600 is (703) 305-4700.

PATENT EXAMINER

Yosef Kassa



11/16/04.